

ACTIVITIES
and
POSITIONS
of the
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Local

Presented by



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of the **PIKES PEAK REGION**

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WHAT WE DO: OUR LOCAL LEAGUE PROGRAM - LWVPPR

The League provides objective, nonpartisan information to citizens on ballot questions, candidate positions, and many other subjects from the fields of government, natural resources, social policy, and international relations. One of the reasons for the political effectiveness of the League is its reputation for thorough study. It may take action only on issues which have been extensively studied and on which the members are agreed.

1. **Study Process**
 - research of the facts
 - discussion by the members
 - development of consensus, if possible

2. **Action**
 - providing information to members and the public
 - building opinion
 - supporting or opposing legislation

Glossary:

Consensus: Substantial agreement of the members, developed through study and discussion.

Concurrence: Substantial agreement of the members on a position previously adopted by another League.

OUR LOCAL PROGRAM

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAMS

Observer Corps is made up of League members who are encouraged to attend public meetings at the school board, city, or county level to observe. Each should wear a League button so the elected officials know we are watching and taking note of the proceedings. A League team leader will be selected for each government body observed. Observer Corps members report their observations to their team leader. They do not speak at meetings they observe.

Voter Services Team activities encourage “informed and active participation in government,” and work “to increase understanding of major public-policy issues” (LWVUS Mission).

LOCAL POSITIONS FOR ACTION

GOVERNMENT

Local Government

Support measures to improve the coordination, effectiveness, and economical operation of local government units.

Support cooperation among local governmental entities. (1970)

Support the Council-Manager form of government as the form best suited to serve the citizens of Colorado Springs, because this form is more businesslike, efficient, responsive, and less susceptible to graft and political influence than other forms of government. (1981)

Support the Council-Manager form of government as above, with the provision of clearly published criteria for choosing the city manager and the continued need to monitor its workability. (1994) (2002-reaffirmed)

Support the “One Citizen, One Commission” proposal to urge more citizen participation on government boards and commissions. This will enhance the civic involvement of LWVPPR. (2008)

Transportation (1980)

Support continuing development of a comprehensive system of public and private transportation while protecting existing neighborhoods and recognizing both the geographic assets and the limitations of the region.

Maintain a presence on the local planning board for transportation including Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) and Citizens Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB) in order to report to members on plans for area’s future. (2007)

Drainage Treatments (1989)

Support the use of soft treatments in drainage channels wherever possible and the use of creative designs in hard treatments. (Soft treatments include nature washes, detention and retention basins, wetlands, and channel stabilization through terracing and vegetative engineering. Hard improvements include flood walls, check dams, culverts, drop structures, and channel stabilization with cement, granite, or rock rip-rap.)

Support the concept of drainage ways as opportunities for amenities in accord with the City of Colorado Springs’ 1986 Comprehensive Plan Goal 9.1, p. 25.

Support incentives that will promote the use of soft treatments and creative hard treatments.

Recommend that the City be aggressive in encouraging such alternative treatments.

Advocate that the City coordinate its drainage maintenance activities to assess costs so that the LWVPPR and the public can examine the financial feasibility of drainage treatments.

Watch the progress of the Colorado Springs/Fountain Green Belt Project. Make members aware of what is happening with the committee. (2007)

Express concern about the over-paving of the city with adverse effect on drainage. Monitor future plans by city for use of fees for non-porous surfaces. (2007)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Parks

* - Support parks, open space, and recreation by providing for planned land acquisition. (1949)

Protect integrity of land and wildlife in parks intended to be left in a natural state.

Support quality maintenance and adequate supervision of parks and facilities throughout the system.

Support an adequate annual budget, including capital improvements.

Prevent attempts to appropriate park lands for other purposes, or to divert funds intended for parks.

Protect conditions in the Palmer-deeded park lands.

Support use of lottery money primarily for land acquisition; secondarily for development of new parks, additional development of new parks, renovation of existing parks, and additional development of existing parks. Lottery funds should not be used for maintenance. (1985)

* - In order to benefit the entire community, both Colorado Springs and El Paso County should: base the value of land on an average of the previous year's sales when [residential] developers pay fees in lieu of dedicating land for parks;

require industrial and commercial developers to dedicate land or pay fees in lieu of land for new developments;

jointly explore areas of common interest such as green belts and trails.

The County needs to develop a system for creating neighborhood parks in the urbanized areas of the County. (1986)

Land Use

Support management of our finite land resources and built environment to ensure public and private rights and responsibilities. (1981)

Support allowance of only non-structural uses in the 100-year floodplain. Similar uses desirable in the 500-year floodplain.

Support minimized channelization and other alterations of natural floodplain.

Support strong regulatory ordinances, exceeding National Flood Insurance Program minimum standards, including provision for informing potential property buyers of floodplain boundaries.

Cooperation is essential among governmental entities in applying mechanisms for floodplain management. (1983)

Air Quality (1985)

Support continued enforcement of city and county ordinances to contain, control and reduce fugitive dust as well as small particulate matter from both mobile and stationary sources. This includes both particulate matter 2.5-micron and particulate matter 10-micron from road sanding activities.

Encourage city and county land-planning departments and commissions to consider the cumulative impact of multiple developments on the air quality of a given region.

Support the purchase by the city and county of additional mobile source monitors for both particulate matter and carbon monoxide.

Support education advising drivers to reduce idle time in drive-through business to sixty seconds.

Urban Design (1987)

Encourage local governments to use urban design for environmental, economic and esthetic benefits for the Pikes Peak Region.

Encourage local governments to implement urban design programs using public-private partnerships.

Encourage local governments to use incentives and controls to implement urban design objectives.

Water (1989) – Concurrence

Support the El Paso County Land Development Code, Section 49.5, Water Supply Standards (commonly referred to as the “300-year water policy”), as it is in force April 18, 1989. This section requires developers of large subdivisions in unincorporated areas of the county to ensure a long-term water supply. A long-term water supply is defined by the regulations as being: “of sufficient quantity to meet the needs of the proposed subdivision for three hundred (300) years.” Developers can use any combination of groundwater and surface water supplies that will last 300 years at the rate of use projected for their developments.

SOCIAL POLICY

Health Care (1991)

Support adequate health care for all citizens for prenatal and delivery care, basic primary care, emergency care, immunizations, well-child care, health education, and communicable disease testing.

Support single entry into a health-care system of coordinated services to meet needs such as prenatal and neonatal care, health education, and primary care for entire community.

Support adequate funding for the Health Department in its efforts to meet the needs of community members. (2007)

Children’s Health and Welfare (2001)

Support programs and policies that promote children’s health and welfare, including:

Economic Self-Sufficiency: opportunities to gain education, job skills, stable employment, a living wage, low-cost and available transportation, affordable child care and child support enforcement.

Health Care: opportunities for affordable health care and access to health care professionals, including treatment for substance abuse and mental health problems.

Affordable Housing: opportunities to obtain affordable housing.

Counseling: opportunities for affordable family and marriage counseling and adequate counseling regarding available government programs designed to mitigate difficulties associated with poverty (e.g., food stamps, Medicaid, federal and Colorado income tax credits, welfare-to-work program services).

Support measures that promote programs that teach life skills and family planning.